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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01464 041219Z

43
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 /047 W
---------- 009618
R 040901Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1197

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, ETRD, SP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DENT. JOINT
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING

REF STATE 277164, 12/19/74; MADRID 8064, 12/26/74

1. SUMMARY: MIN COMMERCE FERNANDEZ-CUESTA REPEATS FORMALLY HIS INVITATION FOR SECRETARY DENT TO VISIT SPAIN. MIN COMMERCE LEAVES TO SECRETARY DENT DECISION WHETHER VISIT SHOULD COINCIDE WITH MEETING OF US-SPANISH JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS YET TO RECEIVE OFT PROMISED RESPONSE FROM FOREIGN OFFICE RE U.S. PROPOSAL TO HOLD MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AT TIME OF SECRETARY DENT'S VISIT TO SPAIN AT THE INVITATION OF SPANISH MIN COMMERCE FERNANDEZ-CUESTA, CHARGE HAS NOW RECEIVED THROUGH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER'S DESIRE AND PLEASURE TO HAVE SECRETARY DENT VISIT SPAIN WHETHER THAT VISIT IS ALSO THE OCCASION FOR A MEETING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COM-
MITTEE. A LETTER IN THIS SENSE ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY DENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND IS BEING FORWARDED SEPARATELY. A WORKING TRANSLATION OF THELETTER IS AS FOLLOWS:
MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY AND FRIEND:
I WISH TO REPEAT IN WRITING THE INVITATION I
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PAGE 02 MADRID 01464 041219Z

HAD THE PLEASURE TO EXTEND IN WASHINGTON FOR YOU

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

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TO COME TO MADRID ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT. IT WOULD
BE FOR ME A GREAT SATISFACTION TO RECEIVE YOU AT
AN EARLY DATE, AS I CONSIDER YOUR VISIT WOULD
CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT OCCASION TO CONTINUE THE
INTERCHANGE OF POINTS OF VIEW I HAD THE PLEASURE
TO HAVE WITH YOU ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF COM-
MERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. I BELIEVE
SUCH CONTACTS IN THE SEARCH FOR A CLOSER MUTUAL
COOPERATION ARE ALWAYS NECESSARY, BUT EVEN MORE
SO IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMY.
I LEAVE IT TO YOUR JUDGEMENT WHETHER TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF YOUR VISIT TO HOLD THE FIRST (?)
MEETING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. IN ANY
EVENT, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF YOU
WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME OF YOUR STAFF AS WE COULD
TREAT IN DEPTH MANY SUBJECTS RELATING TO OUR
MUTUAL TRADE.
I DESIRE THAT YOUR ACCEPT MY INVITATION AND
ASK YOU TO CONFIRM IF IT IS POSSIBLE, INDICATING
DATES AND SUBJECTS YOU MAY WANT TO TREAT.
ETC.

3. COMMENT: THE MIN COMMERCE SECRETARIAT ASSURED THE
CHARGE THAT MFA WAS FULLY INFORMED OF FORMAL INVITATION.
BASSOLS, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, MFA, HAS STATED ORALLY SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE
GOS IS DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT FROM SECRETARY
DENT AND WELCOMES HIM. HOWEVER, ON THE U.S. PORPOSAL
THAT A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING, CHAIRED ON THE
U.S. SIDE BY SECRETARY DENT, BE HELD DURING HIS STAY,
BASSOLS HAS BEEN MUCH MORE RESERVED AND HE CLEARLY IS
OPPOSED TO A JEC MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
BASSOLS HAS SAID THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION WITHIN ANY
FUTURE JEC MEETINGS NEEDS TO BE REDUCED TO A DEGREE
WHICH PERMITS CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES WITHOUT
BURDENSOME FORMALITIES OF POSITION PAPERS, LARGE DELEGA-
TIONS, STRICT PROTOCOL, ETC.

4. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS NOTEWORTH MIN COMMERCE
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LEAVES TO THE SECRETARY DECISION WHETHER TO HAVE JEC
COINCIDE WITH HIS VISIT. BASSOLS, IN A CONVERSATION
SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT OF MIN COMMERCE COMMUNICATION,
INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH PROPOSITION THAT USG DECIDE
WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A JEC MEETING DURING DENT VISIT.
CONSIDERING THAT JEC WAS FIRST REQUESTED BY GOS AT TIME
OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY ISSUE AND REJECTED BY U.S. AS A
FORUM FOR THAT ISSUE, THAT USG HAS NOW BEEN RESPONSIVE TO

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GOS REQUEST FOR JEC MEETING, AND THAT AT SOME POINT NEED
FOR CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM MUST BE CONFRONTED IN THE
RENEGOTIATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION NOW
UNDERWAY, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE
NOT CONTINUE THE PROPOSAL FOR A JEC MEETING EITHER DUR-
ING SECRETARY DENT'S VISIT OR AT ANOTHER EARLY DATE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST RESPONSE SECRETARY DENT RE
INVITATION AND INDICATED PREFERRED DATES IN APR FOR
VISIT.
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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, COMMITTEES
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1975
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
**Document Number:** 1975MADRID01464
**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
**Film Number:** D750075-0482
**From:** MADRID
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Image Path:**
**ISecure:** 1
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750385/aaaacykv.tel
**Line Count:** 126
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
**Office:** ACTION COME
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Page Count:** 3
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Reference:** 75 STATE 277164, 75 12/19/74, 75 MADRID 8064, 75 12/26/74
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED
**Review Authority:** ellisoob
**Review Comment:** n/a
**Review Content Flags:**
**Review Date:** 13 JUN 2003
**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Referrals:** n/a
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** VISIT OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE DENT. JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING
**TAGS:** OVIP, ETRD, SP, US, (DENT, FREDERICK B), (FERNANDEZ-CUESTA, NEMESIO)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006